TSUTSUZUKI RYOUICHIROU.
27 YEARS OLD...
chirp chirp
SO WARM.
WELCOMED THE MORNING IN THE STRONG ARMS OF A MAN...

マザーズスピリット

Mother's Spirit

Story2

QALTAQA-SAN...
LOTOLOV?
EH?
I TOLD YOU I PREPARED THIS FOR YOU TO SLEEP IN, DIDN'T I!?
PLEASE DON'T COME INTO MY BED UNINVITED!
Point!
Blah
Blah
Blah
HOLD
FRET
FRET
SLOW DOWN,
SAY THE WORDS
HOLD ON A MOMENT!
UH!
LOOM!
Doki!

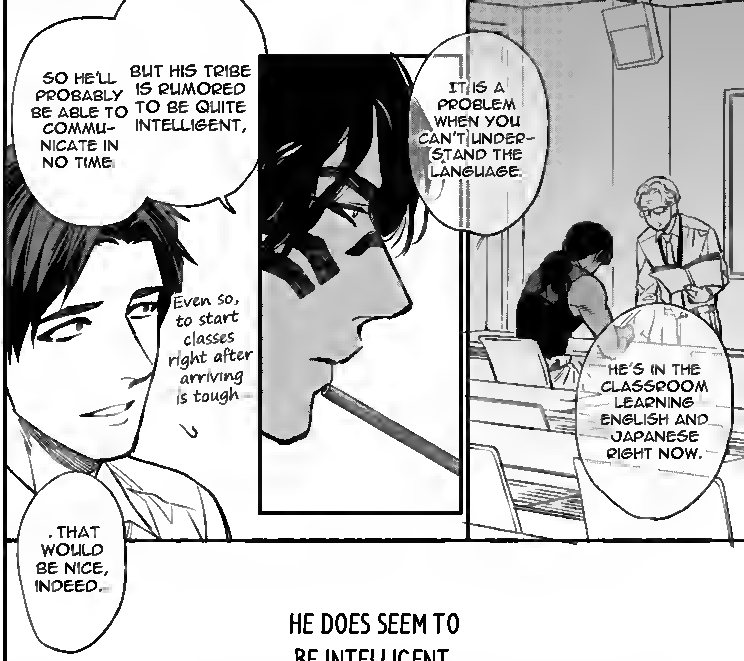
STOP COMING SO CLOSE TO ME..!
It's bad for my heart!!
tap
tap
THIS PERSON...
step
step
KCHAK!
!?
...WHAT IS!?
NOTES
[Naturally]
JUST ONE DAY...
EVEN THOUGH IT'S ONLY BEEN ONE DAY...
?
...CAME TO JAPAN FROM HIS HOME IN A REMOTE REGION
IT WAS ONLY YESTERDAY THAT QALTAQA CAME TO MY PLACE
...AT THE CHAIRMAN'S ARDENT INVITATION...

!!?
RATTLE
!!?
TAP!
JUMP!
STOMP!
STOMP!
BAM!
STRONG
WHAT !?
EH!
WHAT'S THE...!
GLOMP!!!
SLAM!!
AH!
WHAT ON EARTH..
PShh!
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SQUEEEEEEZE...
I'M NOT CONFIDENT I CAN PULL OFF BEING HIS CARE-TAKER
Why don't you
Put on some pants now
SHAKE
SHAKE

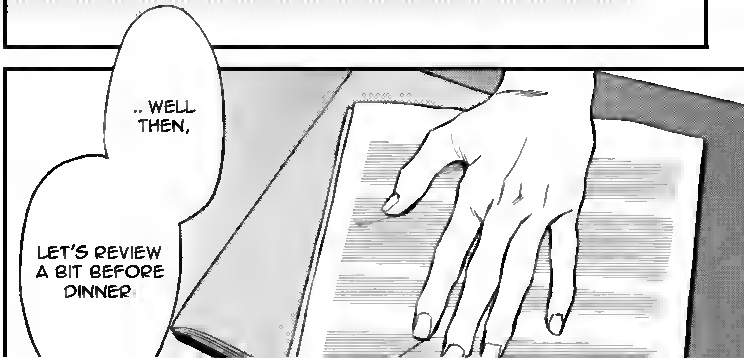
GLOOM...
...GOOD MOR-NING...
YES, GOOD MOR-NING.

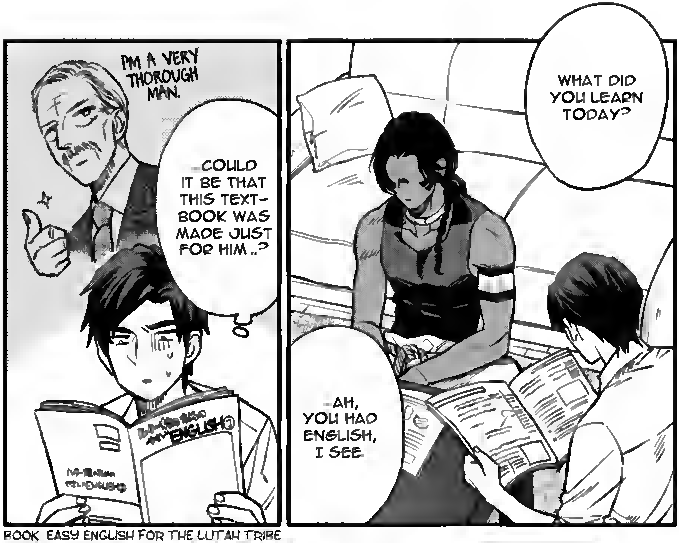
YOU BARELY MADE IT ON TIME TODAY.
Another 20 seconds and you'd have been late
YES, WELL,
THERE WERE SOME ISSUES THIS MO-RNING...
HOW IS QAL-TAQA-KUN?
DOES IT LOOK LIKE HE'LL FIT IN?
twitch!
..WHO KNOWS.
AFTER ALL, HE PROBABLY HASN'T EVER USED GAS OR ELECTRICITY...
HAA...
And--
That's how you use the shower...

...When you want to wash your hair,
Use this bottle... For your body, this bottle...
...
Understand?
...
Face-wash is...
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT I'D HAVE TO BATHE A MAN...
MY, MY, SOUNDS DIFFICULT
If I left him like that, he probably would've gone looking for a river...
SCRUB
SCRUB
SO WHERE IS QALTAQA-KUN NOW?
AHH.. IT SEEMS HE HAS TO TAKE A SPECIAL COURSE BEFORE HE STARTS CLASSES..


HE'S IN THE CLASSROOM LEARNING ENGLISH AND JAPANESE RIGHT NOW.
IT IS A PROBLEM WHEN YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE LANGUAGE.
BUT HIS TRIBE IS RUMORED TO BE QUITE INTELLIGENT,
SO HE'LL PROBABLY BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE IN NO TIME.
Even so, to start classes right after arriving is tough.
. THAT WOULD BE NICE, INDEED.

HE DOES SEEM TO BE INTELLIGENT.




I'M A VERY THOROUGH MAN.
...COULD IT BE THAT THIS TEXT-BOOK WAS MADE JUST FOR HIM..?
ENGLISH
WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY?
...AH, YOU HAD ENGLISH, I SEE

BOOK: EASY ENGLISH FOR THE LUTAN TRIBE

HE'S QUICK TO UNDERSTAND,

HAS A GOOD MEMORY,

AND IS MOTIVATED TO LEARN...

BUT...

BOOK: EASY JAPANESE FOR THE LUTAN TRIBE

Call
RYO
RIO
IF YOU LIKE, RYOU
OR RIO WILL DO
IT SEEMS MY NAME IS DIFFICULT FOR FOREIGNERS TO PRONOUNCE,
I GET THAT A LOT
scratch
scratch
FEEL FREE TO USE WHICHEVER IS EASIER FOR YOU TO SAY
SILEN
CE
...
Step 1.
はじめまして
〔Hajime-mashite〕
NICE TO MEET YOU
IS HOW YOU SAY THIS IN JAPANESE
"HAJIME-MASHITE."
NOW YOU TRY!
UUH...
NOW LET'S START WITH JAPANESE GREETINGS..
YOUR EMOTIONS PACK A STRONG PUNCH, SO STOP MAKING THAT SCARY FACE..
SWEAT
SWEAT
You can read the alphabet, right?

DID HE NOT UNDER-STAND?
LET'S SEE. REPEAT AFTER ME
"Repeat"...
...
...
...
TAP
TAP
YOU'RE GOING TO WRITE EVERY-THING.?
I THINK IT'D BE EASIER TO REMEMBER AURALLY, BUT..
IT SEEMS THAT..

I TRIED TO MAKE SOME SIMPLE CONVERSATION YESTERDAY, BUT HE DIDN'T SAY A THING
WELL, HE DID SPEAK IN HIS OWN TONGUE,
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I UNDERSTOOD A WORD.
Tap!
Tap!
DOESN'T FEEL LIKE TALKING TO ME
FOR SOME REASON HE—
AT FIRST I THOUGHT HE MIGHT BE NERVOUS, BUT...
COULD IT BE THAT HE...
I DID KIND OF PUNCH HIM AT OUR FIRST MEETING.
NO WAIT, MY HAND JUST HAPPENED TO HIT HIM
AND THEN THE MASK'S STRING BROKE—
AND THE WAY I KEPT STARING AT HIS FACE MIGHT HAVE BEEN RUDE—
HATES ME...!?
Crumple
DID IT SHOW ON MY FACE HOW ANNOYED I WAS..?

...IF THAT IS THE CASE,
IT'LL ONLY GET HARDER FROM HERE...
ALRIGHT, I'LL GO START PREPARING DINNER.
IT'LL BE STRESSFUL FOR HIM TOO.. WHAT TO DO..
beep! beep!
stare...
DON'T JUST STAND BEHIND...
WOAAH! YOU SCARED ME!!

You're in the way..
WHA...
WHAT IS IT..?
IS HE INTERESTED IN COO-KING..?
WAH!
GRAB!
!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, THAT'S DANGE-ROUS!
Siss
Baka
Baka
...AH!
MAYBE COULD IT BE.
YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT THIS MORNING..?
-THIS MORNING-
Breakfast is ready!

I put together bread and fried eggs because they're foolproof... But will it be okay?
Just in case, I cooked the yolk though
Flicker
Flicker
E○ナ!!
CLANG!
!!
Hurry and cool it!
AH...
What on earth are you doing!
It was obviously still hot-
I GUESS HE'S NEVER SEEN AN INDUCTION STOVE.
...LUCKILY, HE DIDN'T BURN HIMSELF, BUT...

I'M ALRIGHT.
BECAUSE THIS ROUND PART ISN'T HOT
BANG
BANG
HE WAS PROBABLY REALLY SURPRISED
THAT EVEN WITHOUT A FIRE, SOMETHING COULD BE THAT HOT...
SEE?
I'M NOT HURT ANYWHERE, RIGHT?
FLEX
FLEX
...I GUESS I'M...
NOT HATED AFTER ALL...?
Oh...

chirp chirp
...HMM...
chirp chirp
I'M NOT...
HATED...
AT LEAST WEAR SOME CLOTHES TO BED...
YOU'VE QUITE A LONG FACE THERE, TSU-TSUZUKI-KUN

...
IT'S BEEN FIVE DAYS SINCE HE'S COME TO LIVE AT MY PLACE...
ARAI-SAN..
DOES IT CONCERN QALTAQA-KUN?
WE STILL CAN'T HAVE ANYTHING RESEMBLING A CONVER-SATION..
OF COURSE THERE'S THE LANGUAGE BARRIER,
BUT I GET THE FEELING HE DOESN'T WANT TO TALK...
.COULD IT BE THAT
HE DIDN'T WANT TO COME TO JAPAN?
COULD HE HAVE WANTED TO STAY LIVING AS HE WAS...
WITHOUT EVER HAVING TO LEARN ABOUT A NEW CULTURE?
CLICK
YOU'RE WRONG, TSUTSU-ZUKI-KUN

THE LUTAH TRIBE AS A WHOLE AGREED WITH MY THOUGHTS.
CHAIR-MAN...!
HA!
QALTAQA-KUN AGREED AS WELL.
THAT IT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE TRIBE'S PROSPERITY TO KNOW ABOUT THE WORLD.
FOR THAT REASON, IT IS VITAL THAT HE LEARNS ENOUGH ABOUT OUR COUNTRY SO THAT HE MAY LIVE HERE WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS.
THAT THE TRIBE CHOSE TO SEND THEIR CHIEF'S SUCCESSOR, THE CELEBRATED QALTAQA-KUN, AS A REPRE-SENTATIVE,
IS PROOF OF THEIR CONFIDENCE AND FAITH IN ME.

BUT.
IT TROUBLES US THAT YOU, HIS CARETAKER, SHOULD BE IN THIS STATE
I.. THAT IS..
I DON'T THINK IT'S POSSIBLE FOR ME TO OPEN HIS HEART.
SMILE
YOU HAVE NO NEED TO WORRY.
EH?
AH..
QALTAQA-SAN..

ST
EP!
THUD!
JUMP!
HUH
EH?
WHAT?
WAIT!
Intense!
SCA-
RY...!
WOAH
...!
...
RYO...
OICHIRO...
GRAB!

TSUTSU.
ZUKI..
RYOUI-
CHIROU!
Phew!
YE.
S...
Excellent!
CLAP!
CLAP!
CLAP!

FUFUFUH!
TSUT-SUZUKI-KUN
YES, GOOD.
YOU WERE FINALLY ABLE TO SAY IT PROPERLY
HUH?
BEAUTIFUL PRONUNCIATION, QALTAQA-KUN!
THERE'S A REASON AS TO WHY HE DIDN'T SPEAK JAPANESE.
A REA-SON.?
HUH?

TO THE LUTAH TRIBE, THE NAME IS MOST SACRED.
IT IS SAID TO REPRESENT THE SOUL ITSELF.
IT SEEMS HE THOUGHT IT RATHER IMPOLITE, BEING UNA-BLE TO SAY YOUR NAME PROPERLY.
HE HAS BEEN PRAC-TICING WITH MYSELF AND ARAI-KUN
EH..

Yep Yep
IT SEEMS YOUR NAME HAS SOME SOUNDS HIS TRIBE DOESN'T USE, SO IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO PRONOUNCE
THAT'S RIGHT
HAVE YOU REALLY?
IT TOOK MORE TIME THAN WE THOUGHT IT WOULD.
HE SAID THE FIRST JAPANESE HE WANTED TO SPEAK WAS YOUR NAME, SINCE HE'S UNDER YOUR CARE
AND HE WOULDN'T SPEAK ANY OTHER WORD.
They really are duty-bound people, aren't they?
IS...
IS THAT SO.
Whisper Whisper
EVEN A LITTLE FOLLOW-UP WOULD'VE BEEN NICE, DON'T YOU THINK!?
WE JUST DIDN'T THINK IT'D TAKE THIS LONG.
WELL, WE THOUGHT IT'D BE MORE IMPRESSIVE IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW.
...IF YOU KNEW ALL THIS TIME, YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME, ARAI-SAN! DON'T YOU KNOW HOW WORRIED I WAS!!?
NH?

EH...
I'M SORRY
RYOUI-CHIROU
My back my back

WHA-!!
BLUSH!
"BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T SPEAK, TSUTSUZUKI-KUN WAS LONELY"
I TOLD HIM WHAT WAS GOING ON.
FUFUFUH!

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO TELL HIM THAT.!
..RYOUI-CHIROU..
Heh!
..SO MY NAME..
COUNTS AS A JAPANESE WORD..

SURELY THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
BUT, I'M HONORED.
WE CAN FINALLY TALK.
TREAT ME WELL... QAL-TAQA
...PLEASE, TREAT ME WELL TOO
THIS WILL GO WELL...
DEFINI-TELY...

Tap! Tap!
..AL-RIGHT..
Mh...
He sleeps in the same futon?
LET'S END TODAY WITH THIS SECTION
WE SHOULD SLEEP SOON..
Hmm..
I see..
"NATURALLY"... HUH.
Living together in the same house, it's unthinkable to sleep separately.
That would be a Lutah Tribe custom.
I also slept beside everyone during my visit.
It's a matter of course for them to eat and sleep together with their family and friends
.QAL-TAQA.

I'LL LAY OUT THE FUTON NEXT TO MINE,
SO SLEEP HERE, PLEASE.
IT'S ENOUGH THAT WE SLEEP IN THE SAME ROOM, RIGHT?
...
THANK GOOD-NESS. HE AGREED...
T-
THEN, GOOD NIGHT
...GU?
SMILE

tap!
IT MEANS THIS.
"Good night".
"OYA-SUMI".
"OYASU-MINASAI"
ZWES Loo5...
-GOOD NIGHT.
RYOUI-CHIROU.
!
Touch

BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE ARE SCARY...
FOREIGNERS' SENSE OF PERSONAL SPACE IS TERRIFYING...
WAIT! DON'T THEY SAY THAT SLEEPING ALONE IS LONELY OR UNSATISFYING—?
NO! NO! NO! STOP THINKING ABOUT STUPID THINGS, RYOUICHIROU!
MY HEART WON'T HOLD UP.
マザーズスピリット story2 END

Mother's Spirit - ch2

by Enzou

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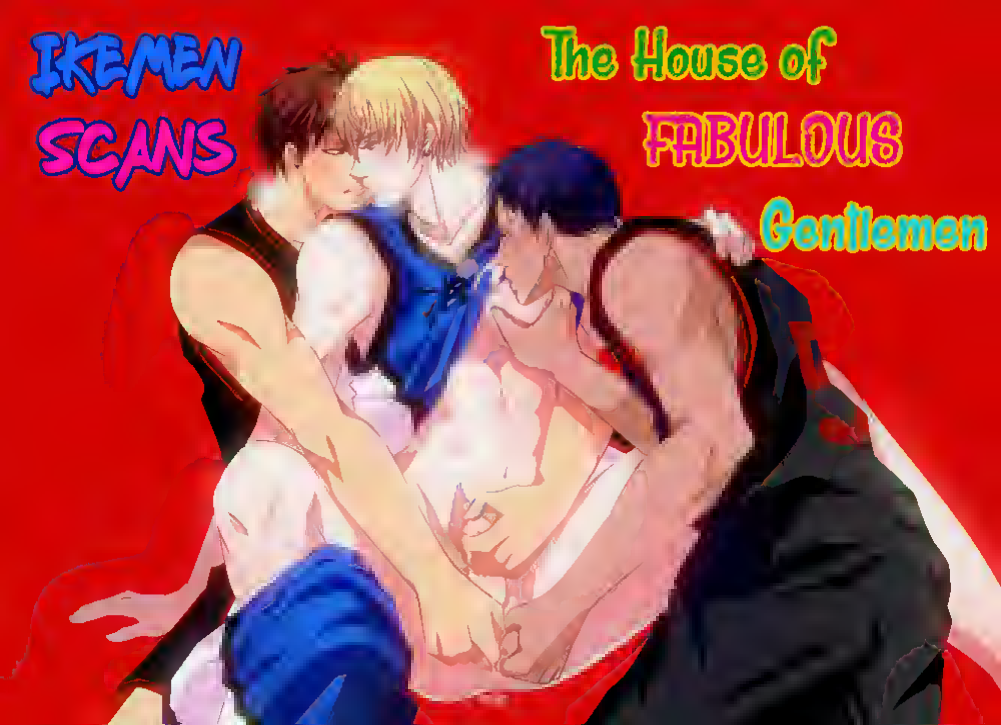
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The House of
FABULOUS
Gentlemen